

TRANSEUROPA PRESS RELEASE - INTERNATIONAL - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



# TRANSEUROPA<sup>23</sup>

## Holding Spaces

Cluj (Romania)

11 – 15 October 2023

**11–15 October**

**TRANSEUROPA 2023**

**HOLDING SPACES**

**A festival of arts, politics and culture**

**Cluj, Romania**

**[\\*Images available here\\*](#) For captions and credits, see photo card below.**

Transeuropa 2023, a groundbreaking festival of arts, politics and culture, is coming to Cluj, Romania from 11–15 October this year. Centered around the theme ‘Holding Spaces’, the festival opens with the Transeuropa Assembly asking participants first and foremost, what kind of environment do they want to live in?

With a rich [schedule](#) of events available in three languages (English, Romanian and Hungarian), the festival will showcase the best of the rising and established artistic scene in Cluj; involve residents and international activists in key political debates; and host participatory action through an exciting variety of workshops, assemblies and walks.

The programme includes performances from local and international theatre collectives and up-and-coming artists. Experimental theatre company Reactor will perform ‘Interior-Light’, exploring identity crises and the depression that follows. Reactor – a space for creative experiments is an independent theatre venue and an artistic collective active in Cluj-Napoca from 2014, producing over 50 original theatre pieces, all focused on the nearby reality and reflecting on social contexts and issues in an attempt to create space for change.

Artist Csenge Schneider-Lőnhárt presents ‘Playdate’, an audio performance where participants are invited to imagine various answers to the essential question of what makes us human.

Stratagème Theatre Company's 'Forecasting' will delve into the process of watching videos by reducing it to its essential: a body and a screen. A series of local and international exhibitions celebrate art, history, culture and resistance.

The festival also includes activities from the community of Pata Rât, an area well-known in Cluj as the location of a sprawling waste dump where many Roma\* families have been evicted to live in slum-like conditions. Through a debate and concert held in the area and a poignant photo exhibition co-created by Marion Colard and women and children from the Roma\* community, the festival aims to provide a space of agency and power for the people of Pata Rât to tell their own narratives.

On Friday 15 October local politicians, academics and activists will gather to discuss the issues of rising rents, real estate development and housing rights. As housing becomes more and more unaffordable, the people of Cluj are finding ways to reclaim, regreen and rewild their space. Participants include the housing justice movement Căși sociale ACUM!/ Social housing NOW!; environmental activist Adrian Dohotaru (SOS, Societate Organizată Sustenabil); housing activist professor Enikő Vincze, and more.

For the full programme of the festival, visit [transeuropafestival.eu](https://transeuropafestival.eu). Alongside the festival, European Alternatives is publishing a special Transeuropa edition of its quarterly [journal](#), featuring voices from across the political, intellectual and artistic spheres around Cluj and Europe.

*TRANSEUROPA is a transnational artistic, cultural and political festival organised by European Alternatives since 2007. In the past decade, TRANSEUROPA has attracted thousands of attendees and active participants through a decentralised event structure in over a dozen European cities and a high profile moment in one city. Find out more about European Alternatives on [euroalter.com](https://euroalter.com) and follow on social media @euroalter.*

*Transeuropa Festival 2023 is organised in cooperation with Tranzit, ZIZ, Reactor, Cinema Arta, Radio Pata, UTP, Căși sociale ACUM! and Fondazione Studio Rizoma. It is funded by the European Union and supported by the ERSTE Foundation.*

*\*The term "Roma" is used as a generic term and does not cover the diversity of communities on the field.*

## QUOTES

Ophélie Masson, Deputy Director at European Alternatives and Coordinator of Transeuropa Assemblies, said, 'The Transeuropa Festival taking place in Cluj this year under the theme of 'Holding Spaces' is an important moment to assemble, inspire and act for a greener, more democratic and more equal Europe.'

Oana Mardare from theatre collective REACTOR said 'During Transeuropa Festival we have the chance to connect both artists and audience around the material and immaterial spaces that we share together through the performing arts. Using theatre as a tool to create common language,

bringing together the translocal and the transnational, the festival provides a space to explore the fundamental human condition and how we connect with each other.”

Csenge Schneider-Lónhárt, Festival Co-ordinator, said, “Through Transeuropa Festival’s varied schedule of activities, we ask: which spaces are accessible to whom, which communities and groups are constantly excluded, and what can we do to create spaces that are inclusive?”

Niccolo Milanese, Director at European Alternatives, said “Working closely with local partners, Transeuropa Festival is a space for imagining, demanding and enacting an alternative reality for Cluj and Europe; one where we put democracy, culture and equality beyond the nation-state at the heart of our practice.”

Cristina Rat Lecturer at Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj, says, 'I remember clearly that ten years ago the local Transeuropa team were among the first people who showed public support for the Roma families in Pata Rât and those who were forcibly evicted from the city to the settlement close to the waste dump. It mattered a lot, because back then anti-Roma sentiments were even more profoundly embedded in mainstream society than nowadays. It's important that the Transeuropa Festival is returning again to Cluj.'

#### **ENDS**

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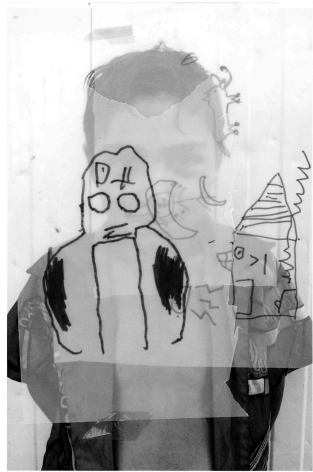


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## Photo Card - Transeuropa Festival Press Photos



Caption: Theatre collective REACTOR in their performance of 'Part 1. Love'. REACTOR will perform at Transeuropa Festival on the evening of Thursday 12 October.  
Credit: Vlad Braga



Caption Left: Art on display at the exhibition *Serie Pata*, co-created by Marion Colard and people from the community of Pata Rât. The exhibition is available for viewing throughout the Transeuropa Festival.

Credit: Marion Colard



Caption: Housing activists in Cluj stand in solidarity with activists in France resisting draconian new housing laws and the criminalization of squatters, tenants and workers in France. Transeuropa Festival will feature debates and discussion on the crucial question of housing rights.

Credit: Jasmina Cloșca